Associate Banks of SBI are not released in time by their Head-quarters/Regional offices leading to avoidable delay and harassment to the pensioners;

(b) if so, whether Government would advise the concerned banks to ensure timely payment of pension on the last working day of the months as in the case of Central Government pensioners; and

(c) by when directions in this regard are proposed to be issued and implemented by the concerned banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) As per provisions contained in Regulation 54 of the Pension Regulations, pension fixed at a monthly rate shall be payable monthly on or after the first day of the following month. As per available information, the banks are releasing the pension to their employees including VRS optees as per the provisions contained in these Regulations.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to advise the banks to modify their Pension Regulations for ensuring payment of pension on the last working day of the month as the rules and regulations governing pay, allowances and retiral benefits including pension for the bank employees are not comparable with those in the Central Government.

Opening of foreign currency account by Resident Indians

2684. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Resident Indians can now open a foreign currency account with a licensed/scheduled bank;

(b) what are the formalities that the Resident Indians have to comply with for opening of foreign currency account in India; and

(c) whether RBI have issued any guidelines in this regard; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India, has permitted a person resident of India, to open, hold and maintain a Resident Foreign Currency (Domestic) Account with an Authorized Dealer in India. Foreign exchange acquired from any of the following sources can be kept in this account:

(i) while on visit to any place outside India by way of payment for services not arising from any business in or anything done in India; or

(ii) from any person not resident in India and who is on a visit to India, as honorarium or gift or for services rendered or in settlement of any lawful obligation; or

(iii) by way of honorarium or gift on a visit to any place outside India; or

(iv) the unspent amount of foreign exchange acquired by him from an authorized person for travel abroad.

This new facility is in addition to the existing facility of retaining US $ 2000 or its equivalent in the form of currency notes and/or foreign currency travellers cheques. The balance in Resident Foreign Currency (Domestic) Account may be used for any purpose permissible under the current foreign exchange regulations for resident Indians.

There is no limit on balances kept in Resident Foreign Currency (Domestic) Account. This account will be maintained in the form of a current account only with cheque facility.

Closing of subsidiary bodies of IDBI

†2685. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IDBI has decided to close its five subsidiary bodies which are running in losses;

(b) if so, the details of such bodies along with the extent to which the each body has been incurring loss and since when;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.